

housing and connected to said means for receiving said power source; installing a plurality of finger depressible buttons with sensors electrically associated with said circuitry;

installing a flexible dome-cap member as a component of at least one of said sensors;

installing pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material under said flexible dome-cap member, said material positioned to be activated by depression of one of the depressible buttons, said variable-conductance material structurally arranged to provide at least three readable analog values, said values dependant upon depressive pressure levels applied to said one of the depressible buttons;

installing circuitry for reading an immediate value of said at least three readable analog values of the pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material, and for outputting from said controller, data representative of the immediate value,

wherein, [the] a user can select (selects) any of the selectable pressure levels, of a plurality of selectable pressure levels associated with said one of the depressible buttons and said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

REMARKS

The entering of the above claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 11 in third time amended form is respectfully requested. Thank you.

In the Office Action, point 3, on page 8, the Examiner provides the reason for allowance as:

prior art does not teach or suggest the limitation, "wherein, the user selects any of the selectable pressure levels, of a plurality of selectable pressure levels".

The "reasons for allowance" provided by the examiner can effect how the patent and claims are interpreted after patent

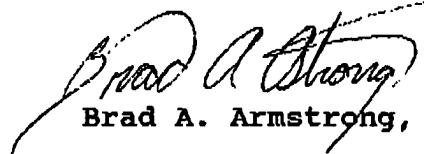
issuance, negatively or positively. Therefore, while the Examiner's stated reason for allowance is not incorrect, it recites functionality, and completely lacks what Applicant strongly believes is the required mentioning of physical features and or steps recited as limitations in combination in each of the allowed claims which allows for the recited functionality. Thus, Applicant very respectfully requests the reasons for allowance be amended to read as follows.

--The prior art does not teach or suggest the novel combination of limitations as claimed, the claimed novel combination of limitations allowing a human user to select any of the selectable pressure levels, of a plurality of selectable pressure levels associated with the analog sensor or material.--

Applicant very respectfully requests that the above changes and Amendments be entered. Applicant must pay the issue fee on or before Dec. 26, 2000, and so this is a fairly urgent matter. Applicant can almost always be reached on his cell phone at 775 721 6958. Applicant's 530 872 9148 phone number typed on the "Patent Application Declaration" is still operable.

Again, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his patience and assistance with this application. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Brad A. Armstrong

Date:

7 December 2000

Inventor